

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Representative Miner Opposes Legislation To Strip Control From Local School Boards**



On Wednesday, May 18, State Representative Craig Miner, R-66th, voted against legislation that would remove longstanding local control from school boards by mandating that additional time be set aside for exercise and restricting what beverages could be sold in schools. Senate Bill 1309 was approved in an 88-55 vote and now goes to the State Senate for further consideration.

For students in grades kindergarten through five, current law requires boards of education to include a period of physical exercise in the regular school day but does not specify the duration. SB 1309 requires students in full-day kindergarten and grades one through five to be provided with the opportunity to engage in physical exercise at least 20 minutes per full school day in addition to any physical education requirements.

The bill also limits the beverages that may be offered in schools via school stores, vending machines, cafeterias, and school- and non-school sponsored fundraising activities to: (1) water, (2) dairy and non-dairy milk, (3) 100% fruit juice, and (4) beverages that contain only water and fruit juice with no added natural or artificial sweeteners. High schools may offer electrolyte- replacement beverages that contain 42 grams or less of added sweetener per 20 ounce serving starting a half hour after the end of the regular school day.

“There isn’t a municipality in Connecticut that doesn’t already have the authority to do what this bill mandates,” said Rep. Miner. “If the parents of our state were as concerned as some members of the Legislature are about additional opportunities for physical exercise and limiting beverages and foods in schools, I have no reason to believe that they would not approach their local school boards and insist it be done. I have the greatest respect for the people that serve our local communities on school boards and believe that this bill is an affront to their integrity and effectiveness to lead their school systems.”

Representative Miner represents the towns of Bethlehem, Litchfield, Morris, Warren and Woodbury in the General Assembly.